GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2751
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS IN AFGHANISTAN
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benefits that are likely to accrue to India as a result of India's assistance for upgradation/construction of Roads in Afghanistan;

(b) whether there has been any objection from any quarter against the project in view of its security sensitive nature; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) The Government of India is undertaking the upgradation/construction of a 215 Km road from Delaram to Zaranj in Nimroz Province in Afghanistan. The road will provide connectivity for land- locked Afghanistan to the sea via Iran, and is important for development of infrastructure and promotion of trade in Afghanistan and a considerable reduction of the motorable distance through Iran for Indian goods to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

(b) &(c) There has not been any objection from any quarter against the project, although Taliban insurgents opposing international reconstruction efforts have attacked project sites and personnel on numerous occasions.